

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION GENEVA

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CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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SUBJ: MORE PUBLICATIONS FINED, SUSPENDED

REFS: A) LISBON 3299; B) LISBON 3552; C) LISBON A-103

SUMMARY: DESPITE OPENING OF NATIONAL DEBATE ON PROPOSED NEW PRESS LAW, OLD "INTERIM" MEASURE REMAINS IN FORCE. AFTER SIX-WEEK RESPITE "AD HOC" PRESS COMMISSION RECONSTITUTED AND APPEARS BUSILY ENGAGED IN SURVEYING BROAD RANGE OF PUBLICATIONS, HANDING DOWN FINES AND SUSPENSION ORDERS WHERE IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, NOT ALL SUSPENDED PUBLICATIONS ARE WILLING TO RESPECT SUSPENSION ORDERS. END SUMMARY.

1. AD HOC PRESS COMMISSION DESIGNED TO SUPERVISE PORTUGUESE PUBLICATIONS WAS REACTIVATED IN MID-SEPTEMBER CLOSING THEREBY A SIX-WEEK GAP IN THAT BODY'S FUNCTIONING DUE TO MASS RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS OF FIRST GROUP ON AUGUST 2 (REF A). RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS FIRST COMMISSION, IN PROTEST AGAINST SUSPENSION ORDERS ISSUED BY NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA AGAINST THREE AFTERNOON LISBON DAILIES, LET TO SPECULATION AT TIME THAT COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE REVIVED.

2. DURING SIX WEEKS GAP JUNTA, TO WHICH AD HOC COMMISSION IS RESPONSIBLE, REFRAINED FROM ISSUANCE OF FURTHER PRESS DISCIPLINARY MEASURES. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 14 THAT NEW COMMISSION (COMPOSED OF EIGHT MILITARY FIGURES) HAD BEEN NAMED WAS FIRST INDICATION THAT GOP MIGHT NOT BE CONTENT TO LET QUESTION OF PRESS SUPERVISION RIDE PENDING FORMULATION OF NEW LEGISLATION TO GOVERN THIS MATTER (REF B).

3. NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS OF COMMISSION MET WITH PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES ON SEP 14. ON SEP 17 IT WAS REVEALED THAT COMMISSION HAD ORDERED 60-DAY SUSPENSION OF CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY TEMPO NOVO FOR HAVING PUBLISHED "OPEN LETTER" TO MOZAMBIQUE-BORN BRIG OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVELHO (MILITARY GOVERNOR OF LISBON, HEAD OF COPCON AND "OPERATIONAL COMMANDER" ON APRIL 25) FROM MOZAMBIQUE LAWYER NEVES ANACLETO. LETTER DERIDED FRELIMO ("SMALL GROUP OF EMIGRE BLACKS") AND SARCASTICALLY SUGGESTED THAT CARVALHO OPT FOR MOZAMBIQUE CITIZENSHIP SINCE HE WAS, IN FACT, NO LONGER PORTUGUESE. (TEMPO NOVO'S EDITOR/PUBLISHER IS JOSE HIPOLITO RAPOSO.)

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4. ON SEPTEMBER 18 LEVYING OF FOLLOWING THREE FINES ANNOUNCED:
A. \$1,000 AGAINST LIBERAL WEEKLY EXPRESSO, CHARGE BEING THAT FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON NAVY "SANEAMENTO" CONTAINED FALSE ELEMENT (UNSPECIFIED);
B. \$4,000 AGAINST SMALLCIRCULATION, CONSERVATIVE/TRADITIONALIST CATHOLIC BIWEEKLY RESISTENCIA, ACCUSED OF PUBLISHING ARTICLE IN AUGUST 15 ISSUE AIMED AT "INCULCATING CLEARLY ULTRA- REACTION-ARY IDEAS IN ITS READERS, BESIDES IMPLICITLY QUESTIONING THE

IMPARTIALITY AND PATRIOTISM OF THE HIGHEST ELEMENTS OF THE EXISTING REGIME;"

C. \$200 AGAINST SMALL CIRCULATION, WEEKLY RAO (OF COVILHA), ITS INFRACTION BEING PUBLICATION IN EDITION OF AUG 30-SEP 6 OF CARTOON DEPICTING JUNTA MEMBER GALVAO DE MELO SITTING ON A TOILET CONNECTED TO TWISTED SECTION OF PULUMBING/TV CIRCUITRY WITH CAPTION, "THIS IS CALLED THE GALVAONIZATION OF A TELEVISION CIRCUIT."

5. ADDITIONAL FOUR FINE/SUSPENSION ORDERS REVEALED SINCE SEP 18:

A. WEEKLIES JORNAL DA BAIRRADA AND JORNAL DE FAMILICAO SUSPENDED FOR HAVING COMMITTED "IDEOLOGICAL AGGRESSION," THE CHARGE BEING SUPPLEMENTED BY ACCUSATIONS THAT PUBLICATIONS WERE MOTIVATED BY "MOST REACTIONARY" ELEMENTS;

B. HEAVY FINE LEVIED ON NEWSPAPER BANDARRA (NEW PUBLICATION, APPARENT SUCCESSOR TO FAR-RIGHT POLITICA);

C. FAR LEFT PUBLICATION PROLETARIO VERMELHO SUSPENDED FOR 60 DAYS, THE CHARGE IN THIS CASE BEING PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS INJURIOUS TO ARMED FORCES, AFM'S PROGRAM AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

6. COMBINATION OF SUSPENSION AND FINES THEREFORE STRIKES ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF PORTUGUESE PUBLICATIONS, FROM PRESITIGIOUS AND LIBERAL EXPRESSO TO RESPECTABLE AND CONSERVATIVE TEMPO NOVO, AND FROM OBSCURE PUBLICATIONS ON FAR RIGHT TO OBSCURE ONES ON FAR LEFT. IRONICALLY, GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO FIGURES PROMINENTLY IN TWO OF THESE INSTANCES: A FEW WEEKS BACK TEMPO NOVO RAISED FLURRY OF RPTEST BY PRINTING INTERVIEW WITH GALVAO DE MELO (REF C) THAT FEATURED SEVERAL CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS (INCLUDING EQUATION OF COMMUNISM WITH FASCISM), REMARKS THAT RAO CARTOON INCORPORATED INTO ITS PLUMBING CIRCUITRY. SECOND IRONIC NOTE STRUCK BY SEPARATE ARTICLE IN SAME ISSUE OF RAO COMPLAINING ABOUT (THEN NON-EXISTENT) AD HOC COMMISSION'S "SLEEPING" WHILE FORCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF REACTION BUSILY SET ABOUT COMMITTING THEIR OWN BRANK OF "IDELOLGICAL AGGRESSION" THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

7. WHILE AD HOC COMMISSION IS LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE TO JUNTA, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING ITS WORK FOLLOWS PATTERN ESTABLISHED AT TIME OF SUSPENSION CRISIS DISCUSSED REF A. AT THAT TIME SUSPENSION ORDERS FOLLOWED ON HEELS OF CONFERENCE HELD BY PRIME MINISTER WITH EDITORS OF MAJOR DAILY PUBLICATIONS IN WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, OUTLINES OF GOP PRESS POLICY WERE LAID OUT TO THOSE PRESENT. PRIME MINISTER ALSO WAS KEY FIGURE IN RESOLVING OF MINI-CRISIS CAUSED BY NEWSPAPERS' SUSPENSION. IT PROBABLY THAT JUNTA'S RETREAT TO BACKGROUND ROLE IS RESULT OF DELIBERATE DECISION ON ITS PART TO LET MFA-IDENTIFIED PRIME MINISTER SHARE IN RESPON- SIBILITY FOR RENEWED ENFORCEMENT OF HARSH "INTERIM" LAW.

8. AS FOR LUTA POPULAR, MAOIST MRPP ORGAN WHICH BEARS DISTINCTION OF BEING ONLY PUBLICATION TO HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED "INDEFINITELY," COPIES ARE NOW BEING PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED SEMI-CLANDESTINELY. IF COPIES SECURED BY EMBASSY ARE ANY GUIDE TO LUTA POPULAR'S SITUATION, SUSPENSION ORDER HAS NOT HURT. EXPENSIVE APPEARING, TWO-COLOR MULTI-PAGE FORMAT PRINTED ON HIGH QUALITY PAPER WITH PROFESSIONAL SKILL. LOW PRICE (ONE ESCUDO) INDICATES MRPP DOES NOT LACK MONEY.
SCOTT

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